

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 were originally filed, claims 2-3 and 17-23 were previously canceled without prejudice, and claims 24-39 were previously added. Claims 1, 8, 11, 13, 15, 24, 25, 34-36, and 38-39 are currently amended, claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 12, 14, 30, 31, and 33 are currently canceled without prejudice, claims 6, 7, 26-29, 32, and 37 are previously presented, and claim 40 is new. Accordingly, claims 1, 6-8, 11, 13, 15, 16, 24-29, 32, and 34-40 are pending. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be forwarded on to issuance.

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Interview Summary

Applicant's attorney, Michael Colby, wishes to thank Primary Examiner Jeffery A. Brier for a telephonic interview on April 20th, 2006.

In the interest of expediting allowance of the application, and without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicant's attorney proposed to amend each of the independent to further clarify features of Applicant's invention. Applicant's attorney understood the Examiner to tentatively agree that the proposed amendment overcame the outstanding rejections based on Oberg and Sakai. The Examiner indicated that he would need to update his search, and requested that the proposed amendments be presented in writing.

Accordingly, the independent claims have been amended herein, as discussed during the interview. Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that would prevent the allowance of the application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4-16, and 24-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,870,771 to Oberg (herein, "Oberg") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,138 to Sakai et al. (herein, 5 "Sakai").

As noted above, Applicant amends the claims as discussed in the interview.

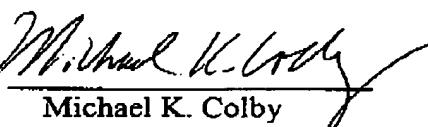
Conclusion

10 Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. If any issues remain that prevent allowance, Applicant respectfully requests a phone call to discuss scheduling an interview.

Respectfully Submitted,

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